



**Bankside  
School**

Headteacher: Kate Jasper  
The Rhydd (on B4211 Road), Hanley  
Castle, Worcestershire, WR8 0AD  
Telephone: 01905 388 897  
Email: [info@banksidecollege.co.uk](mailto:info@banksidecollege.co.uk)  
Website: [www.banksideschool.co.uk](http://www.banksideschool.co.uk)

## Newsletter: 17<sup>th</sup> October 2025

### Visible Consistency, Visible Kindness

We have been very busy this week at Bankside.

It was lovely to see so many Parents and Carers at Parents Evening on Tuesday. The feedback was very positive and it was a good opportunity to share with you how your youngsters have settled into the new academic year.

EHCP/PCP targets were shared by Tutors if they met their group's parents/carers and, if not, then these will be shared with you over the coming week. Please ask your child's tutor for a copy if you haven't received them by next Wednesday.

Pupils have engaged in a variety of trips this week from attending the Malvern Hills Youth Assembly to walking up the Malvern Hills and from fishing to learning how maths takes centre stage when horse racing! The photos and reports below are a treat to read and, once again, our pupils have done us proud with impeccable behaviour and educational curiosity.

All our pupils are doing really well and are beginning to feel tired from a long half term. We hope they, and you, manage to get some rest this weekend.

### Word of the Week

As a school we continue to follow our 'Word Aware' focus. Each week we pick a word and explore it's meaning to extend vocabulary and to develop understanding of more complex words.

Next week, our Word of the week will be "Justice"

Just as a reminder we are a **NO NUT** School, we have a number of pupils who have allergies, this includes for some pupils, coconut allergy, please be mindful of pupils using sprays or body lotions as they can be sensitive to this.

### Important Dates

#### **Autumn Term**

**Autumn Term:** 3rd September 2025 – 19th December 2025

**Half Term:** 27th October 2025 – 31st October 2025

Please note that our TED day is the **21<sup>st</sup> of November**

## Nominations

### **Star Learners: For outstanding effort and focus in lessons:**

- **Archie Ho, Sylvie and Ewan** - For working together to create some amazing music. You all worked so hard and had so much fun along the way.
- **Sammy T** – For creating an excellent presentation in his English lessons.
- **Archie C** - For creating an excellent mood map in English showing great inference skills.
- **Harley M** - For star learner because of his great attitude towards all of his lessons.

### **Kindness Champions:**

#### **For showing compassion, helping others and lifting the mood of those around you:**

- **Sylvie U** - For being a helpful and supportive partner /coach during her PE session.
- **Vinny G** – For showing kindness and respect, holding doors open for other pupils and staff
- **Phoebe S** - Showing kindness towards staff

### **Progress Heroes: Special Mention:**

#### **For making visible strides in learning, behaviour and confidence:**

- **Archie C** - For attending and engaging in Music, making great progress and even experimenting with music creation at home!
- **Ewan L** - For showing amazing resilience, courage and thoughtful reflection after a tricky and upsetting incident, going on to make some great sausage rolls in cooking.
- **Hayward F** - For attending his cookery lesson and participating making cheese pasties, even doing his washing up and putting it away!

### **Special Mentions**

#### **Ola D and William E –**

During our trip to the Malvern Youth Assembly, you represented yourself and Bankside School amazingly. Thank you!

## Lunchtime clubs launched!

This week has seen the introduction of Lunch time clubs. Everyday there are opportunities for pupils to link into an activity of their choice. They do not have to sign up for the term, they can just turn up on the day and choose different clubs each week.

	<b>Lead Staff</b>		
<b>Textiles</b>	CaPe/ChHa	Monday	Rm 7 (CaPe)
<b>Badminton</b>	JaLe/EmCo	Monday	Chapel
<b>Logic Club</b>	JoKn/JaBe	Monday	Rm 10 (JoKn)
<b>Lingo Legends</b>	CoCh/ZoFi	Tuesday	Rm 4
<b>Cartoon club</b>	TrPr/TA	Tuesday	Rm 9 (TrPr)
<b>Kindness Club</b>	DoCh/TA	Wednesday	Rm 2 (DoCh)
<b>Mindfulness Music</b>	ToDo/TA	Wednesday	Rm 8 Music Room
<b>Science</b>	SiSh/TA	Thursday	Rm 5 Science Room
<b>Tech Club</b>	NiBe/TA	Thursday	Rm 9 (TrPr)
<b>Dodgeball</b>	JaLe/EmCo	Friday	Chapel
<b>Art</b>	CaPe/ChHa	Friday	Rm 7 (CaPe)
<b>Quiet space</b>	<b>Clinical Team</b>	<b>Every day</b>	<b>Rm 6 (LaSt)</b>

## Fishing

On Thursday two students went fishing. They showed amazing resilience, politeness and teamwork during their fishing trip. They showed great manners when speaking to other fishermen at the lake, engaging in an in-depth conversation about the type of fishing. They were also a great team - helping each other out to set up rods, overcome problems when the hooks got caught in trees, be resourceful to find a new hook when we ran out, and also helped each other learn the 'fly fishing' techniques. Overall, they were a pleasure to spend the afternoon with, and were a great representative of Bankside in the community! Well done boys!

[Photos to follow]

## Malvern Hills

A group of students went on a Geography Field trip up the Malvern Hills. We parked at the car park near British camp, where we had a picnic and then we made the steep ascent up to British Camp. On the way we admired the autumn colours as we went through the trees and then we looked at direction and landmarks in the distance, noting that Worcestershire was on the East side of the ridge and Herefordshire on the West side. We could also make out the Black Mountains towards Wales and possibly a tiny bit of the Brecon Beacons further West into Wales. Everyone was very proud of our achievements including overcoming anxiety in order to climb up the hills!





# Options Autism: Autism Strategy

Author:

Dr Freya Spicer-White, Head of Autism and Neurodiversity Practice

**The main objective of the Autism Strategy is to strengthen and continually progress our approach to the provision of care, education and clinical services to autistic individuals in an environment which is conducive to their strengths and needs.**

Options Autism is one part of the family of services under the Outcomes First Group. This Autism Strategy informs the wider groups' approach, including Acorn Education and Care, regarding best autism practice.

The strategy recognizes that despite underlying shared traits, autistic individuals are vastly different from one another. Some autistic individuals are cognitively talented, some autistic individuals have a significant intellectual impairment; this strategy has been written to ensure all abilities levels have been considered and included, although some parts of the strategy may be more relevant to specific needs.

The Autism Strategy takes inspiration from positive, optimistic person-centred approaches. Psychological models, such as PBS, PERMA (Seligman) and PACE (Hughes) combined with clear communication standards from Royal College of SLT's principles of 5 good communication, all emphasize the importance of genuine engagement, empathic relationships, increasing an individual's experiences of positive emotions and meaningful achievements.

The Strategy has been created and refined through a review of the current autism literature and consultation from the lived experience expert panel, a clinical multi-disciplinary (Speech and Language, Occupational Therapy and Psychology) team and the OFG advisory board. The Strategy has also been through a focus group of teacher's and teaching assistant to test reliability and acceptability.

**The foundation of the Autism Strategy is based upon the principals of Ask, Accept and Develop.**

## Ask

First and foremost the Autism Strategy wants to hear the voices of the autistic individuals in their services. This means above all else we must learn to Ask. Wherever possible the autistic individuals in our services will be consulted about their choices and preferences; these choices need to be wide ranging, including supporting individuals to provide meaningful input into their own care and education plans at whatever level is appropriate for their cognitive ability. Ask is the top priority of our Autism strategy because we recognise the importance of consulting to the autistic individual above anything else; we listen to their perspectives and our staff will treat the autistic person as a unique individual with their own likes, dislikes, wants and needs.

"As a mum, for him to have more safe choices is very important the older he gets"

Autistic Individual's parent.

## Accept

Accept within the Autism Strategy means that our staff will have an understanding of autism that is intellectual, practical and cultural. They will understand the strengths and needs associated with an autism diagnosis, whilst also appreciating each individual's own personal strengths and needs. The Autism Strategy does not seek to cure/treat autism or supports approaches/interventions in which the goal is to attempt to make an autistic individual behave in a more neurotypical way or involves any form of punishment. The focus of Accept is to create environments, communication systems and activities which meet the needs of the autistic individual, and enable that individual to thrive and experience positive emotions.

"Accepting is about embracing, and that is very important to me"

Autistic Lived Experience Expert

## Develop

Develop within the Autism Strategy means our staff will teach and scaffold the development of new skills, abilities and strategies for the autistic individuals in our services. The teaching and development of new skills will be derived from an individual's personal goals, informed by their family's views and driven to improve their quality of life and their wellbeing. The focus is to enable and empower an individual to increase their independence and flourish.

## Malvern Hills Youth Assembly Trip

On Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October students from the school and college attended the first Malvern Hills Youth Assembly at the District Council. Ola, William and Rebecca were joined by Dom and Jenni for a full day of engaging sessions.

They were welcomed by Councillor John Gallagher, leader of the Malvern Hills District Council, where he launched an opportunity for the schools attending to apply for up to £1000 towards a project or activity developed as a result of one of the sessions taking place that day!

Each of the sessions included a panel of professionals that lead discussions and activities:

- Session 1 Jobs, skills and opportunities
- Session 2 Environment and climate change
- Session 3 Mental wellbeing
- Session 4 Community Safety

All students were engaged and shining representatives of our Bankside community. Multiple people commented throughout the day how fantastic our young people were.

Now it is time for the team to start thinking about a project that will support our Bankside community.



## Parent Partnership Request: Road Safety and Carpark Use

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are reaching out to ask for your support in improving road safety around our school and college site. As many of you will be aware, the current speed limit and signage on approach to our entrance do not adequately reflect the needs of a specialist setting serving children and young people.

**We are actively seeking a reduction in the speed limit and the installation of additional signage** to ensure safer entry and exit for all vehicles, especially during busy drop-off and pick-up times. To strengthen our case with the Local Authority, we need your help.

If you share our concerns, we encourage you to:

- Share your experiences or observations with us directly
- Support our request by endorsing future petitions or consultations

Your voice matters. The more we can demonstrate community concern, the more likely we are to secure meaningful change.

We also kindly remind all families of the appropriate use of the carpark, particularly:

- Disabled bays must only be used by vehicles displaying a valid Blue Badge
- Please avoid blocking access routes or parking in undesignated areas
- Drive slowly and remain vigilant for students and pupils getting into their vehicles

Thank you for your continued partnership in keeping our community safe and inclusive. If you have any questions or would like to support this initiative further, please contact the school office.

## Functional Skills Exams & Access Arrangements

Functional Skills exams are scheduled to take place in mid-November. As part of our preparations, we are currently seeking parental consent for access arrangements. These arrangements are designed to support our students who may need additional help during exams, and they apply to all qualifications. Even if your child has not previously used access arrangements, we want to ensure everything is in place should the need arise. Please look out for the consent form and return it promptly. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us.

## Race Day Trip

Students attended a day of activities run by Racing To School, who provided several maths based activities behind the scenes at Worcester Race Course. We were able to visit the weighing room used for the jockeys to make sure they are the correct weight to ride their horses, and did some tasks which involved adding and subtracting weights and converting between metric and imperial measures. Next we went to the Parade Ring to measure the track using standard and non-standard units, before finishing the day with a tour of the stables and watching a race! It was great fun and student's behaviour and attitudes were exemplary.



# BRIDGES OF LIGHT.

Presented by Severn Arts  
Part of the Local Voices Creative Choices programme



## Worcester City Centre

Free to Attend

**29 and 30  
October  
6pm-9pm**

Bridges of Light is a new, two-day light festival, with a focus on communities, creativity and collaboration.



Through high quality light artwork, we invite you to share in our community stories. Visit our light installations, take part in our interactive artworks, grab a bite to eat, and enjoy Bridges of Light with family and friends.

Visit our website to discover more about Bridges of Light - meet the artists, explore their work, and find out how to navigate Worcester City Centre during the festival.



Share your videos and photos by tagging  
@SevernArts and using the hashtag  
#BridgesofLightWorcester

## Funders and Supporters

